

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02342 230308Z

62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-11 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ISO-00 ACDA-05 ERDA-05 NASA-01 OES-03 SAJ-01 /102 W

----- 083311

R 171706Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9990

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

DIA WASHDC

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

USM USUN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USM GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USM NATO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTBKY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2342

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 2342 VICE 2343)

EMO. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, CCD, UN, UR, US

SUBJECT: PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA ON THE CCD

REF: 75 MOSCOW 18223

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 02342 230308Z

1. SUMMARY. PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA FEBRUARY 16 PROPOSE

THAT THE CCD AGENDA IN ITS UPCOMING SESSION CONCENTRATE ON A BAN ON NEW MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS; ON ENMOD; AND ON A CHEMICAL WEAPONS BAN. THOUGH THE IZVESTIYA PIECE CALLS FOR AGREEMENT ON LANGUAGE ON ALL THREE BY THE END OF 1976, SOVIET INTEREST IS OBVIOUSLY CENTERING ON THE MDW, AND WE SUSPECT THAT THEIR EFFORTS ON THE OTHER TWO ISSUES WILL PALE IN COMPARISON. INDEED, CRITICISM IN THE COMMENTARIES OF THE U.S. FOR DELAYING COMPLETION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS BAN WHICH WAS FARILY PROMINENT IN A RECENT PRAVDA COMMENTARY (REFTEL) IS HEAVILY MUTED, PERHAPS IN AN EFFORT TO GET ON OUR GOOD SIDE ON THE MDW QUESTION. END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA'S COMMENTARY BY LEONID NIKOLAYEV SAYS THAT THREE "IMPORTANT AND RESPONSIBLE" TASKS FACE THE CCD THIS SESSION: THE "IMPERATIVE NECESSITY" OF PREVENTING THE CREATION OF NEW TYPES AND SYSTEMS OF MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS; AN ENMOD CONVENTION; AND A CONVENTION ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS; NIKOLAYEV CALLS FOR THE "URGENT PREPARATION AND CONCLUSION" OF AN MDW AGREEMENT, STRESSING THE USUAL LINE THAT NEW WEAPONS SYSTEM COULD BE DEVELOPED WHICH WOULD BE EVEN MORE DESTRUCTIVE THAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS. HIS DISCUSSION OF THE ENMOD PROPOSAL DOES NOT EMPHASIZE PARTICULAR URGENCY, NOTING ONLY THAT THE IDENTICAL U.S. AND SOVIET DRAFTS FOR THE CONVENTION ARE A "GOOD BASIS" FOR THE COMMITTEE'S WORK.

3. NIKOLAYEV'S COMMENTS ON THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION ARE PHRASED A BIT MORE SHARPLY. HE NOTES THAT THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL WAS MADE "AS FAR BACK AS 1972", AND CON-TENDS THAT AGREEMENT ON A CONVENTION IS BEING BLOCKED BY "A NUMBER OF WESTERN STATES". NIKOLAYEV DOES NOT SUBJECT THE U.S. TO SPECIFIC CRITICISM, THOUGH BY NOTING THAT AGREEMENT WAS REACHED AT THE JULY 1974 AND THE VLADIVOSTOK SUMMITS TO WORK TOWARD A "JOINT INITIATIVE" ON THE MORE TOXIC AGENTS, HE IMPLICITLY JOGS THE U.S. FOR DRAGGING ITS FEET. HOWEVER, HIS CRITICISM OF THE U.S. ON THIS ISSUE IS MUCH LESS POINTED THAN THAT CONTAINED IN A SIMILAR PRAVDA COMMENTARY DECEMBER 20 (REFTEL).

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 02342 230308Z

4. THE IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY BY V. OSIPOV LAYS OUT EXACTLY THE SAME AGENDA FOR THE CCD, IN THE SAME ORDER OF PRIORITY. OSIPOV BELABORS NO ONE ON THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION, THOUGH HE TAKES A SWIPE AT THE U.S. ON ENMOD BY SAYING THAT U.S. ACTIVITIES IN INDOCHINA SHOWED THAT MEANS TO INFLUENCE THE ENVIRONMENT FOR MILITARY ENDS AL-

READY EXIST. OSIPOV UNDERLINES THE SUPPORT BY THE "OVER-

"WHELMING MAJORITY" OF U.N. MEMBERS FOR THESE AND OTHER COMMUNIST BLOC DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS, AND CONCLUDES THAT PAST U.N. RESOLUTIONS ON THESE ISSUES PROVIDE "A GOOD AND TESTED BASIS FOR THE COMMITTEE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON CORRESPONDING DOCUMENTS DURING THE COURSE OF ITS PRESENT SESSION, THAT IS, DURING 1976."

5. COMMENT: WE ASSUME THAT THESE COMMENTARIES REFLECT ACCURATELY THE OFFICIAL SOVIET LINE, AND ARE FAIRLY CONFIDENT THAT THE OPENING SOVIET SPEECH IN THE CCD WILL BE VERY SIMILAR TO THEM. THE MDW PROPOSAL IS OBVIOUSLY THE GLAMOR ITEM ON THE SOVIET AGENDA FOR 1976, AND, IF WE READ THESE COMMENTARIES CORRECTLY, MOSCOW MIGHT BE WILLING TO DELAY WORK ON A CHEMICAL WEAPONS BAN EVEN FURTHER -- AND TO MUTE CRITICISM OF THE U.S. ON THIS ISSUE -- IN ORDER TO COME TO AN AGREEMENT ON THE MDW QUESTION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DISARMAMENT, MEETING AGENDA, POLICIES, ENMOD, CHEMICAL WARFARE WEAPONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW02342
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760066-0905
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760243/aaaablul.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 18223
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 OCT 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 OCT 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <02 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA ON THE CCD
TAGS: PARM, UR, US, CCD, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006